

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Grube in view of the patent to Hlinsky.

In the Office Action the Examiner indicated that there were some areas of patentability of the present invention. The Examiner's highly beneficial advice has been gratefully acknowledged. In connection with this, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to more clearly define the present invention and to distinguish it from the prior art.

In particular, claims 1 and 9 now define, in addition to other features, that the washer has first means on the radially inner surface to provide friction with the bolt, second means on second axially outer surface for increasing friction with the object to impede the washer from turning, and third means on the first axially outer face surface for reducing a friction with the nut so as to prevent dragging of the washer by the turning nut and wherein the first means increasing the friction of the bolt is provided only on the inner surface of the radially inner portion of the washer, while a radially outer portion of the washer is not provided with first means for increasing

friction with the bolt, and the radially inner portion provided with the first means is axially displaceable relative to the outer portion.

Turning now to the patent to Grube, it can be seen that while this reference teaches some features of the present invention, it does not disclose the second means which increase the friction of the washer with the object and third means which reduce a friction with the washer with the nut. Also, as now specified in claims 1 and 9, it does not teach radially inner and outer portion, in which only the radially inner portion has an inner surface with first means increasing the friction with the bolt, while the radially outer portion does not have such first means. The structure disclosed in the patent to Grube requires both portions to be internally threaded to provide a friction with the bolt to work, contrary to the applicant's invention, as confirmed by the Examiner.

Thus, this reference does not teach the new features of the present invention as defined in the amended claims 1 and 9. The patent to Hlinsky does not disclose a first turning resistant surface which prevents the bolt from turning, and also does not have an axial outer face surface provided with means for reducing its friction with a nut.

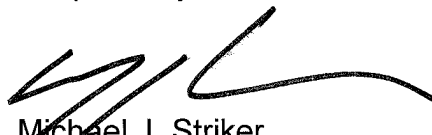
Since the references did not teach the above mentioned new features of the present invention, a combination of the references would lead only to such a construction which would also not include the new features of the present invention.

It is believed that claims 1 and 9 as amended should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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